

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/807,322

Examiner

Carlos A. Martinez

Applicant(s)

YAMAZAKI, KOZO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed through 11/09/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-5, 7-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-25, 27-29, 31-33, 35-37, and 39-40.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-25, 27-29, 31-33, 35-37, and 39-40:

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 1 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an optical writing device comprising: a housing having an opening; a dustproof member configured to be light permeable and close the opening; a light source installed in said housing and configured to irradiate an image carrier with a light beam through said dustproof member; *a shield movable between a first position to cover said dustproof member and a second position to uncover said dustproof member; and a cleaner attached to said shield and arranged to contact at least a part of the dustproof member during the first and second positions.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 5 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an image forming apparatus for electrophotographic image forming comprising: an image carrier for carrying an image formed with irradiation of a light beam; and an optical writing device comprising: a housing having an opening; a dustproof member configured to be light permeable and close the opening; a light source installed in said housing and configured to irradiate said image carrier with the light beam through said dustproof member; *a shield movable between a first position to cover said dustproof member and a second position to uncover said dustproof member; and a cleaner*

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*attached to said shield and arranged to contact at least a part of the dustproof member during the first and second positions.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 11 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an image forming apparatus for electrophotographic image forming comprising: an image carrier configured to carry an image formed with irradiation of a light beam; an optical writing device comprising: a housing having an opening; a dustproof member configured to be light permeable and close the opening; and a light source installed in said housing and configured to irradiate said image carrier with the light beam through said dustproof member, *a shield movable between a first position to cover said dustproof member and a second position to uncover said dustproof member; and a cleaner attached to said shield and arranged to contact at least a part of the dustproof member during the first and second positions.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 15 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an optical writing device comprising: a housing for enclosing an optical writing mechanism, said housing having an opening; dustproofing means for light-permeably shielding the opening; light irradiating means for irradiating an external image carrier with a light beam through said dustproofing means; *and shielding means for covering said dustproofing means during an inactive state of the optical writing mechanism and uncovering said dustproofing means during an active state; and cleaning*

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*means for cleaning an exterior of said dustproofing means and configured to contact at least a part of the dustproofing means during the active and inactive state.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 19 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an image forming apparatus for electrophotographic image forming, comprising: image carrying means for carrying an image formed with irradiation of a light beam; and optical writing means comprising: a housing for enclosing an optical writing mechanism, said housing having an opening; dustproofing means for light-permeably closing the opening; light irradiating means for irradiating said image carrying means with the light beam through said dustproofing means; *and shielding means for covering said dustproofing means during an inactive state of the optical writing mechanism and uncovering said dustproofing means during an active state; and cleaning means for cleaning an exterior of said dustproofing means and configured to contact at least a part of the dustproofing means during the active and inactive states.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 25 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an image forming apparatus for electrophotographic image forming, comprising: image carrying means for carrying an image formed with irradiation of a light beam; optical writing means comprising: a housing for enclosing an optical writing mechanism, said housing having an opening; dustproofing means for light-permeably shielding the opening; light irradiating means for irradiating said image carrying means with the light beam through said dustproofing means;

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*shielding means for covering said dustproofing means during an inactive state of the image forming apparatus and uncovering said dustproofing means during an active state; and cleaning means for cleaning an exterior of said dustproofing means and configured to contact at least a part of the dustproofing means during the active and inactive states.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 29 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an optical writing method comprising the steps of: storing an optical writing mechanism into a housing having an opening; closing the opening with a light-permeable dustproof member; emitting a light beam from inside the housing for irradiating an external image carrier through the opening and the dustproof member; *moving a shield between a first position at which the shield covers the light-permeable dustproof member when the optical writing mechanism is inactivated, and a second position at which the shield uncovers the light-permeable dustproof member; and providing a cleaner to the shield in contact with at least a part of the light-permeable dustproof member configured to clean off an exterior of the light-permeable dustproof member when the shield is moved between the first and second positions in said moving step.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 33 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an image forming method for electrophotographic image forming, comprising the steps of: carrying an image by an image carrier; and performing an optical writing method comprising the steps of: storing an optical writing mechanism into a housing having an opening; closing the opening with a light-permeable

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dustproof member; emitting a light beam from inside the housing for irradiating the image carrier through the light-permeable dustproof member; *moving a shield between a first position at which the shield covers the light-permeable dustproof member when the image forming operation of the image forming method is inactivated, and a second position at which the shield uncovers the light-permeable dustproof member; and providing a cleaner to the shield in contact with at least a part of the light-permeable dustproof member configured to clean off an exterior of the light-permeable dustproof member when the shield is moved between the first and second positions in said moving step.*

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 37 is allowable over the art of record because the prior art does not teach an image forming method for electrophotographic image forming, comprising the steps of: carrying an image by an image carrier; performing an optical writing method comprising the steps of: storing an optical writing mechanism into a housing having an opening; closing the opening with a light-permeable dustproof member; emitting a light beam from inside the housing through the light-permeable dustproof member; *moving a shield between a first position at which the shield covers the light-permeable dustproof member when an image forming operation of the image forming method is inactivated, and a second position at which the shield uncovers the light-permeable dustproof member; and providing a cleaner to the shield in contact with at least a part of the light-permeable dustproof member configured to clean off an exterior of the light-permeable dustproof member when the shield is moved between the first and second positions in said moving step.*

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With respect to claims 3-4, 7-10, 13-14, 17-18, 21-24, 27-28, 31-32, 35-36, and 39-40, these claims are allowable since they depend on allowable independent claims (claims 1, 5, 11, 15, 19, 25, 29, and 33).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Specification/Claims***

The corrections made to the specification/claims were received on 11/09/2006. It is noted that these corrections to the specifications/claims are acceptable.

#### ***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos A. Martinez whose telephone number is (571) 272-8349. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm (M-F).


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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11/24/2006

  
HAI PHAM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER